



Forest Insect & Disease Management

Report No. 80-3-25

Issued on: 6-4-80

AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY OF SOUTHERN
PINE BEETLE ACTIVITY, CROATAN NATIONAL
FOREST, NORTH CAROLINA

LAND OWNERSHIP OR SURVEY AREA: Croatan National Forest

STATE: North Carolina

AREA WITHIN SURVEY BOUNDARY: 308,226 acres

DATE: May 12, 1980

PERCENT COVERAGE: 100%

AIRCRAFT: Cessna 182

CREW: E.T. Wilson, R.F. Bassett

REPORT PREPARED BY: E.T. Wilson

SURVEY OBJECTIVES

To detect the presence and location of forest insects and diseases adversely affecting the timber resources in the survey area.

SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 20 spots of dead and dying trees were detected. Of these, 18 spots were 10 trees in size or less, the remaining two spots totaled 50 trees. The pine mortality on the Croatan National Forest is suspected to be caused by southern pine beetle. The attached map indicates the approximate size and location of suspected southern pine beetle infestations.

CONCLUSIONS

The occurrence and severity of southern pine beetle infestations throughout the Southeast and especially in close proximity to the Croatan National Forest indicates a potential for increased southern pine beetle activity. A ground check will be conducted by personnel from the Asheville Field Office to determine the causal agent. Field surveillance by National Forest personnel should be continued to aid in the early detection of potential insect or disease problems.

SOUTHEASTERN AREA, STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY
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